



MSHA's Accident Prevention Program Miner's Tip

**SAFETY
IS A
VALUE!**

"Remote Controlled Load Haul Dump Equipment"

Category : [Haulage](#)

Mine Type: [Underground MNM](#)

In a recent non-fatal accident, a remote controlled, diesel powered, Load Haul Dump (LHD) operator was pinned against the rib by the rear of the machine while performing mucking operations on a grade. The machine design permitted full machine articulation with the brakes applied. Once the parking brake was released, the machine could free-wheel and coast down a grade if the brakes were not applied by a separate joystick switch. To protect yourself and stay in control:



- **Know all the remote control unit's operating functions and safety features** and any differences with other remote control units used.
- **Stand clear** of the machine during changeover from manual to remote operation and during normal operation.
- **Perform a pre-operational inspection** and test all remote control joysticks and switches to assure they function properly, test spring-loaded controls to ensure they return to neutral positions when released, make sure controls are free of foreign material that might block their action, and that all control rubber sealing boots are intact.
- If applicable to your LHD, apply the service brake on the remote control unit prior to releasing the parking brake to prevent the machine from coasting down a grade.
- **If you identify a problem** or safety concern pertaining to the remote control unit or the machine's operation, **notify management**. It may be possible to address concerns through a change in work practices or through design modification by the machine or remote control unit manufacturer. (See design recommendations in Smart Choices During Mining, "[Remote Controlled LHD Design Safety Recommendations](#)").
- **Do not use defective equipment. Take it out of service for repair.**

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Remember – Safety is a Value that you can LIVE with!